SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

A Way to Prevent Naturalization Frauds. From the N. Y. Evening Post.

The laws under which foreigners may be come American citizens are enacted by Congress. The duty of naturalizing or conferring citizenship is, however, put upon the State

This plan does not seem to work well. It is certain that frauds are committed; that men are made citizens who ought not to be; and that the Naturalization law is made the instrument for procuring in this and other ways many illegal votes.

One of the morning papers proposes that Congress shall "put the whole business of naturalization exclusively into the hands of the courts of the United States." This would do well enough; but it would be still better for Congress to enact that a foreigner shall be entitled to naturalization in four instead of, as now, five years; but that a naturalization paper shall not entitle the person to vote at any election until a year after its issue.

Under such a rule the time of trial would not be lengthened; the foreigner would become entitled to vote just as soon as now; but by a merely mechanical device, by obliging him to apply for and receive his papers of citizenship a year beforehand, fraud would be prevented.

There is reason to believe that such a change would do away with most of the frauds now practised. It would certainly relieve the courts of the great pressure of this kind of business now put on them just before important elections; it would do away with the unpleasant suspicions and accusations of fraud now so frequent; and it would make the records of the courts a sort of registry of newly naturalized voters, which could be copied by the agents of both parties long before the election, and thus enable each to detect any attempt of its opponents to intro-duce fraudulent or illegal votes.

Minister Johnson. From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser,

Mr. Reverdy Johnson's short career as a representative of the United States in England has hardly justified the high expectations that were formed of him in that capacity. He is entitled to a great deal of credit for his efforts to strengthen the amicable feelings that ought to exist between the two countries, and it is to the credit of the English press that it so fully appreciates his readiness to forgive and forget the petty vexations that cost his countrymen so much anxiety and so many losses during the dark hours of the civil war. There is a great deal in the history of the last few years which Englishmen would naturally desire to cover with a veil of oblivion. They are even ready to pay our little bill for the Alabama claims, provided we say no more about it. There is, of course, nothing to be gained by keeping old sores epen too long, and Minister Johnson's surprising magnativity in this nimity in this respect naturally draws out the gushings of the English heart.

But there is such a thing as having too much of a good thing, and there is a growing conviction on this side of the Atlantic that Minister Johnson has a little overshot the mark. In the first place he has been injudicious in leaving himself and his country open to assaults like those of the Confederate sympathizing Roebuck, and was in too great a hurry to reply to indignities of which an American minister should properly take no official cognizance.

It is only when we contrast the course of Adams that we realize how much Americans are indebted to the latter gentleman. Mr. Johnson, in a quiet time, and in smooth wa'er, has made more disagreeable stir within a few weeks than Mr. Adams made during as many years of stormy waters. The latter conducted the most difficult negotiations, in a most exciting period, without involving himself in personal broils, and never gave an American citizen abroad reason to blush for him or his country. It is not too late for Minister Johnson to imitate the example of his predecessor. Let him keep within the line of his proper business, collect the Alabama bill as soon and as quietly as he can, and abstain from ambitious efforts to influence public opinion by irregular methods. By this means he may contrive to get over the balance of his career with credit to himself and honor to his counwith credit to himself and honor to his conn-try. English opinion would not tolerate Minis-ter Thornton if that gentleman were to lay himself open to insult by accepting an invita-tion from a New Bedford corporation if com-posed of the victims of Anglo-Confederate pri-vateers. Yet this is precisely similar to what Mr. Johnson has done, and all the brilliancy of his retort to the snappish Roebuck can scarcely atone for the original blunder in his scarcely atone for the original blunder in his representative capacity of accepting the ques-tionable hospitalities of the Sheffield Municipality, before his credentials were presented to the English Government.

The Southern Electoral Vote-The President and the Military.

From the N. Y. Herald. President Johnson on Monday issued an order to army officers in command in the several Southern districts, defining their duties in regard to the elections, and calling their atten-tion to those provisions of law forbidding any interference or intimidation on the part of the military or naval forces at such times. In this President Johnson is right. Many of the military commanders have entirely misunderstood their duties and made themselves ridioulous. Their province is to preserve the peace and aid in suppressing riots. If the people of the unreconstructed States choose to vote for Presidential electors the military have no right to interfere. Whether the votes of such States will or will not be counted is altogether a different matter. But the blundering folly of military commanders and uneasy politicians who are making so much fuss over the electoral votes of the South, lies in not comprehending the fact that the majority for General Grant in the loyal States will be so over-whelming that it could make no difference in the grand result if every ex-Rebel State, reconstructed or unreconstructed, were to be counted in favor of Seymour. Such a concession would only make Seymour's vote a little more respectable in point of numbers than McClellan's. The loyal States will decide this election with a unanimity even greater than that with which they re-elected Abraham Lincoln, and the Southern electoral vote could not alter the verdict were it to go to

How They Economize the Truth.

Washington, to Texas, or to a hotter place in

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The World rejoices the hearts of its Copper-The World rejoices the hearts of its Copperhead readers with cheering advices as follows:—

"The Hon. Herschel V. Johnson has written a long letter to the Democrats of Troup county, Georgia, in lieu of a speech. It is eloquent, logical, d'spassionate, and is being circulated as a campaign document in the State.

"Mr. Robert Tyler (son of the ex-President), living in Montgomery, Ala., has written a long and conclusive letter in favor of the Democratic

Tyler are both consistent advocates of a "White Man's Government," and as such stood by the Slaveholders' Rebellion from first to last. Tyler was particularly active in securing the secession of Virginia, though we did not hear of his heading any bayonet charges on the Boys in Blue until now. He "pre-dicted the success" of the Confederacy, but that didn't prevent its collapse; nor will his confident prophecies help Seymour to an

"The New Haven Register announces that at least two thirds of the Boys in Blue in that city will vote for Mr. Seymour, and have joined the Jackson Legion within the past three weeks."

-Certainly! It was "announced" in 1864, by the New Haven Register and its kin, that two-thirds of the Boys in Blue would vote for their able and beloved ex-commander, George B. McClellan, for President, rather than for the backwoods lawyer, Lincoln; but they didn't. He who imagines that soldiers who then voted for Lincoln over McClellan will now vote for Seymour over Grant must suppose that they have queer tastes.

"The Hon, John W. Wilcox, late radical candidate for Congress in the 'Mariposa,' California, District, has come out for Seymour and Biair."

—The only 'late radical candidate for Congress in the Mariposa District, California,' is not John W. Wilcox, but Timothy G. Phelps, who is hard at work for Grant and Colfax. Some folks should have good memories, but haven't. This Wilcox may possibly have dreamed that he would be a "radical candidate for Congress," but seeing that he isn't, he takes his little revenge on mankind in general by going for Seymour and Blair.

Southern Murders.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The World thus moralizes over the late massacre at Camilla, Georgia, and other outrages at the South:-

"The 'Rebels' of the South have everything to lose and nothing to gain by an 'outrage'—the radical leaders everything to gain and nothing to lose. Who, then, is the more likely to act the aggressor? Let the reader carefully revolve this subject; let him consider that every 'outrage' heretofore has been profitable to that party and unprofitable to the South, and he cannot but see where the guilt of these things lies."

Comments by the Tribune. The Rebels of the South have everything to lose and nothing to gain by an 'outrage,' when they are its guilty authors, and in no other case. The World assumes that a ma-jority of the voters in the free States are Democrats; and it pretends that its own circulation is equal to that of the Tribune. It is very certain that, through ours and other journals, the whole truth comes to light. These "outrages" can only damage the Rebels by inducing Northern citizens otherwise inclined to the Democrats to vote with the Republicans. That is the precise way—the only way—in which the Rebels "lose" by said "outrages." And they could not so lose if the candid did not see that the Rebels were the guilty

The World understands this whole matter perfectly. It knows that the one question that now distracts the South and disturbs the na-tional peace is—"Shall blacks be allowed to vote at elections?" The Rebels are determined that they shall not-that the acts of Congress which made them voters shall be subverted, as Frank' Blair foreshadowed in the letter that gave him the Democratic nomination for Vice-President-and the loyal four millions thus remanded into nonentity and vassalage. In strict accordance with this programme, the Rebels of Mitchell county determined that the Republican candidates for Congress and elector should not speak at their county seat, Camilla, as they had announced their intention to do; and, when the day came and the speakers, with a band and procession, they ambushed, fired upon, and butchered as many of them as possible, hunting and shooting the fugitives for hours. All who have read both stories know that this is the substantial truth, and that it is a natural, necessary result of the doctrine held by the World, by Seymour, and by the Democratic party generally, that "niggers" have no right to vote, and that it is presumption and usurpation on their part to attempt it. If Frank Blair is a statesman, then the Rebel murderers at Camilla were patriots; and their action was far more justifiable than that of Seymour's "friends" in this city in burning a colored orphan asylum, and hanging or roasting "niggers" who were not even accused of carrying a penknife. It is the devilish spirit of caste—the notion that one man, because he is white, has a right to domineer over another because he is black—that is at the bottom of all these crimes and outrages, and the World knows it.

The Unreconstructed States and the Election.

From the N. Y. Times. We hope there is no truth in the report at-tributing to Mr. Johnson an intention to inter-fere in the affairs of the three States not yet reorganized, with the view of encouraging them to take part in the voting on the third of Nevember. The Democratic journals have for some time past urged their party friends in Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas to hold an election, despite the law and the decision of the district commanders; and it is known that in two of the States, at least, the supporters of Seymour and Blair are preparing to act upon the advice. They have relied upon the Presi-dent's sympathy with their intention, as in-ferred from his vete message of July 20, in which he asserted the continued validity of the governments which Congress abolished. All that is needed to consummate the mischief is some Executive step which shall conflict with the military order forbidding an election, as issued by General Reynolds in Texas, and which shall more specifically indicate the President's approval of the course contemplated by the Democracy.

An attempt to hold an election in the States

named will certainly produce complications, and probably very grave disaster. If made at all it will be made under the pretended authority of officials whom Congress legislated out of office, acting for governments which have no existence, with the suffrage restricted exclusively to whites. The mere effort would provoke disturbance, and its prosecution would unquestionably involve bloodshed. It was in view of this peril that General Reynolds wisely ferbade the opening of polls in Texas, and Mr. Johnson will incur a serious reconstitute if he sets that order aside or responsibility if he sets that order aside, or encourages the belief that it may be disre-

garded with impunity.

Whatever Mr. Johnson may think, or whatever Democrats may desire, the law upon the subject is too plain to leave room for cavil. It provides that States which have not been restored to the Union shall not be entitled to restored to the Union shall not be entitled to representation in the Electoral College. "Nor shall any electoral votes be received or counted from any of such States." By this enactment Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas are excluded from the Electoral College. Their

votes will not be received. Neither Grant nor Seymour can be strengthened by them. True, the statute does not in terms forbid the opening of polls, nor is that provision necessary. The three States are still without civil government. They are ruled by military authority. And, in the circumstances, it is the duty of the commanding Generals, respec-

party, and predicting its success in that State and throughout the country."

—Messrs. Herschel V. Johnson and Robert

Tyler are both consistent advocates of a graph. Johnson keep off his bands, and allow those who are charged with the maintenance of order to perform their duty effectively. There are already more than sufficient explosive materials in those States, and the best thing he can do is to abstain from encouraging the lawless and disloyal element which waits but for his sanction to begin its work.

> The Electoral Vote of Alabama. From the Mobile Register.

We cannot be too emphatic nor too per sistent in keeping before our people the paramount impertance of registering and voting at the November election. It has been truly said that there is no telling what a day or an election may bring forth; and, while we believe in all sincerity that the majority in the Electoral College will be overwhelming for Seymour, yet it is in range of possibility that the eight votes of Alabama will be necessary to decide the question. These eight votes lost to the Democratic majority of the College, and cast against us, will be equal to sixteen—the number of the large and important State of Illinois.

Here, then, is the main point against which to guard. Not only must we use the vote of our State, but we must prevent its use-in a doubly telling sense - against us by the

Alabama is pronounced a State of the Union and in the Union. Congress, in the plenitude of its power, has pretended to be merciful. It has said to the "erring sister":

"Come to these clear flowing fountains, Where you may wash and be clean"— And the "erring sister" has come. She has drupk of the bitter waters of reconstruction, and regenerated by the admission of her Senators and Representatives—whatever they may be—she is told she may lead a new and better life. And it is a new life and a better one, for it gives her new hope and new incentive in loosening the shackles that have bound her fair limbs so long. She now has the power to shake off the sore stiffness that cramped her in her chains; to slough away the despondency and lethargy that would soon have proven so deadly, and to rise once more, in her dignity and majesty, among the sovereign

It is in her own hands to do this. If her people rise with one accord and agree to vote as one man on the third of November. the voice of Alabama will be heard high in the glad song of triumph that swells for the victory of right and law from Maine to Mexico. For the vote of Alabama must and will be recorded. Even the most rabid radicals, outside her borders, have not dared to deny that right; they have endorsed it by claiming the votes of her eight electors for Grant and Colfax. They have failed even to hint at her exclusion on the plea that they do of Texas, Virginia, and Mississippi.

There was, therefore, nothing left them but to so manipulate this vote as to justify the claim they had made of it for their candidates. This was left to the carpet-bag Solons at Montgomery, and we verily believe these wise men have overreached themselves. That they have not done so—if we be mistaken—is not their own fault, but that of our people who refuse to register and to vote. We have affirmed and reaffirmed, and we now once more repeat, that it is not only the right of Alahama to vote, but her highest and most Alabama to vote, but her highest and most sacred duty.

As a State of the Union and in the Union, her eight electoral votes will be received and counted; those eight votes may decide the election for the Democratic candidates if cast in their favor-against the Democratic candi-

dates if cast against them. What will be the feeling of the State, what the feeling of every man in it, if—when too late—it is shown that lukewarm, over-certain, or hair-splitting Democrats have let the vote of Alabama offset and nullify the hard-earned but honest verdict of a great, doubtful State !

Good News of General Meade. From the Washington National Intelligencer.

We observe that General Meade reports to seneral Grant that he will distribute the troops in his department with a view to aid the civil authorities to keep the peace during the approaching election. They should have been so distributed all along back for the pur-pose of aiding the civil authorities in keeping the peace. General Meade now recognizes the disposition of the civil authorities, who were once Confederates, to keep the peace. He pro-poses to aid them. The radical demagogues pronounce them rebellious, and aiders and abettors of all sorts of crimes upon the negroes and carpet-baggers. General Meade gives the lie to all this by his admission that he will aid the civil authorities to keep the peace. There would have been no great collisions, with bloodshed, in the South, had troops been used by certain mercenary generals and subordi-nate officers who have turned their backs nate officers who have turned their backs upon the honorable sentiments that govern most soldiers of the army, for the purpose of preventing menaced outbreaks, by having troops ordered to the spot, suitably prepared, for the purpose of preventing resorts to force by hostile elements of population. But this has been habitually avoided by

generals and subordinate officers, in order that disorders, mobs, and outbreaks might arise, to the end that, by distorting or utterly falsifying the facts, political capital might be had for the radical demagogues of the North.

What care such men about bloodshed, when Stanton and Grant were guilty of the infamy of instructing General Butler to make nego-tiations "purposely offensive," to prevent exchanges of prisoners? In the great day of the end of earthly things, these men, and all like them who were particeps criminis in the awful guilt referred to, will receive that condemnation that human tribunals of justice are

powerless to punish at all, much less in the fearful manuer that they should. These characters can have nothing but allconsuming misery, in view of what must be the ever-present thought of guilt, that nearly all who died at Andersonville and other Southern prisons could have been preserved to their country, relatives, and friends, had they but have complied with the proposition of the Confederate authorities to give over the prisoners at those points without exchanges.

All the history of human atrocity in war

bears no comparison to the murderous policy of Stanton and Grant, who said to Butler, "make negotiations in these matters purposely offensive," no matter if Union prisoners do suffer and die, without medicines, or food, or clothing, as asked of us by the Confederate Government, with propositions to pay for them

The Financial Issue-Governor Seymour.

From the N. Y. World. A sagacious, statesman-like intellect sees, in advance of other minds, and it is its pro-vince to teach other minds what are the pre-cise questions on which public affairs hinge. Now that the Presidential canvass is so far advanced, it is worth while to look back and see how the financial discussions have flowed in the channel marked out by Governor Seymour before the opening of the Presidential cam-paign. In his speech in Connecticut, early in

the spring, he charged the Republican party with enormous extravagance, especially in expenditures for the support of the army. Although the platforms of both political parties put a different financial issue in the fore ground, it is curious to remark how the drift of the financial controversy has followed the direction so long ago given to it by Governor Seymour. All the most notable efforts of the financial critics, every document or speech which has widely commanded public attention, has related to the extravagance question and not to the greenback question.

Mr. Wells' letter, Mr. Tilden's speeches, Mr.

Atkinson's speech, Mr. Delmar's letter, are prolix and elaborate on the question of receipts and expenses, and nearly silent in respect to the medium in which the five-twenty bonds should be paid. All of these documents follow regularly in the wake of Governor Seymour, discussing, with various and conflicting views, the question started by him in April, which has eclipsed the greenback question made so prominent in the two political platforms.

This is due to the fact that Governor Sey-

mour had looked into these subjects more profoundly than the makers of the platforms. As an issue between the political parties, the greenback question is of little consequence. Widely as the two parties differ on this subject in theory, nothing can be done by either of them in practice without the consent of the other. During the next administration, the Republican party will have the Senate; the Democratic party the President and a majority, or nearly a majority, of the House. In this state of the political chessboard, it is evident that no law can be passed for increasing the quantity of greenbacks without the consent of both political parties. But if the debt is to be paid without issuing more greenbacks, money must be raised by taxation and appropriated to that purpose; which again requires an act of Congress, in which the Senate as well as the House and the Presi-dent must concur. The Republican party being pledged to pay the debt in gold, and the Democratic party in gresnbacks, and each having a complete check on the other, none of the bonds are likely to be paid in either medium during the next administration. This is not a question on which the Government is compelled to act. The five-twenty bonds have yet fifteen years to run, unless the Government chooses to pay them sooner; and before they mature the question may cease to be of any interest, by the restoration of specie payments. Elections at present cannot turn on questions whose practical solution lies so far in the future. While the Senate continues Republican the bonds will not be paid in greenbacks; and as nobody can predict the state of the currency four years hence, the country will decide more wisely then, in presence of the facts. Under a prosperous and economical administration we may, in four years, make great advances towards resumption. We certainly should not recede in a contrary direction. If there should be a surplus revenue within the four years, it would probably be applied towards the extinction of the debt by the simple means of purchasing bonds at current rates-a proceeding which would steer clear of the present controversy, and yet have the advantage of extinguishing

The real financial issue between the two parties is, whether we shall stop the extrava-gance which has raised and spent money enough since the war to have paid off all the five-twenty bonds. This question, unlike the other, is practical. An adverse Senate can arrest retrenchment, if we have a Democratic President and Democrats enough in the House to make his vetoes effectual. One branch is allpowerful to check legislation, although it can do nothing affirmative. It takes the whole legislative power to authorize the payment of the five-twenties before the twenty years expire, or to provide greenbacks for that purose: but either House of Congress alone, or the President alone if his veto is sustained has power to arrest appropriations for the extravagant or needless expenditure of money. By a check on appropriations we can accomplish all the greater objects for which the Democratic party strives. It will enable us, for one thing, to cut down the army to a peace standard, and leave the Southern States to manage their local affairs according to their own liking. It will enable us to curtail expenses in every department of the public service. To be sure, much will re-main undone, which it would be desirable to do if we could have a Democratic Senate. We cannot, for example, repeal or modify the exorbitant tariff. We cannot deprive the national banks of their unjust privileges. But we can withdraw military coercion from the South; we can put a stop to the present monstrons waste of the people's money. Governor Seymour evinced the penetration of a statesman in turning the financial controversy into this practical channel.

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